

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
Special Status Species and Birds of Conservation Concern

Last Update: October 6, 2014

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	STATUS	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT IN FIELD OFFICE?
Black-footed ferret ⁴ <i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	Prairie dog colonies for shelter and food; >200 acres of habitat with at least 8 burrows/acre	No
Bonytail <i>Gila elegans</i>	E	Warm-waters of the Colorado River mainstem and tributaries, some reservoirs; flooded bottomlands for nurseries; pools and eddies over rocky substrates with silt-boulder mixtures for spawning; no designated critical habitat in UFO	No
Clay-loving wild buckwheat <i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	E	Mancos shale badlands in salt desert shrub communities, often with shadscale, black sagebrush, and mat saltbush; 5200' – 6400' in elevation	Yes
Colorado pikeminnow <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	E	Warm-waters of the Colorado River mainstem and tributaries; deep, low velocity eddies, pools, runs, and nearshore features; uninterrupted streams for spawning migration and young dispersal; also floodplains, tributary mouths, and side canyons; highly complex systems	Yes
Humpback chub <i>Gila cypha</i>	E	Warm-water, canyon-bound reaches of Colorado River mainstem and larger tributaries; turbid waters with fluctuating hydrology; young require low-velocity, shoreline habitats such as eddies and backwaters; no designated critical habitat in	No
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	E	Warm-water reaches of the Colorado River mainstem and larger tributaries; some reservoirs; low velocity, deep runs, eddies, backwaters, sidecanyons, pools, eddies; cobble, gravel, and sand bars for spawning; tributaries, backwaters, floodplain for nurseries	Yes
Southwestern willow flycatcher ⁵ <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	For breeding, riparian tree and shrub communities along rivers, wetlands, and lakes; for wintering, brushy grasslands, shrubby clearings or pastures, and woodlands near water	No
Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly ⁵ <i>Boloria acrocne</i>	E	Restricted to moist, alpine slopes above 12,000' in elevation with extensive snow willow patches; restricted to San Juan Mountains	No
Canada lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T	Spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, willow carrs, and adjacent aspen and mountain shrub communities that support snowshoe hare and other prey	No

Colorado hookless cactus <i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	T	Salt-desert shrub communities in clay soils on alluvial benches and breaks, toe slopes, and deposits often with cobbled, rocky, or graveled surfaces; 4500' – 6000' in elevation	No
Greenback cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</i>	T	Cold water streams and lakes with adequate spawning habitat (riffles), often with shading cover; young shelter in shallow backwaters	No
Mexican spotted owl ⁵ <i>Strix occidentalis</i>	T	Mixed-conifer forests and steep-walled canyons with minimal human disturbance	No
Western yellow-billed cuckoo ⁸ <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	T	Riparian, deciduous woodlands with dense undergrowth; nests in tall cottonwood and mature willow riparian, moist thickets, orchards, abandoned pastures	Yes
Gunnison sage grouse ⁷ <i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	T	Sagebrush communities (especially big sagebrush) for hiding and thermal cover, food, and nesting; open areas with sagebrush stands for leks; sagebrush-grass-forb mix for nesting; wet meadows for rearing chicks	Yes

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Federally listed species in Colorado. Official correspondence, February.

² Van Reyper G. 2006. Bureau of Land Management TES [threatened, endangered, sensitive] species descriptions. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO, updated 2009/2010. Unpublished document.

³ Assessment based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁴ Black-footed ferret believed to be extirpated from this portion of its range.

⁵ Species not known to occur within UFO boundaries, but known to occur in close proximity.

⁶ Federal candidate species; in accordance with BLM policy and Manual 6840, candidate and proposed species are to be managed and conserved as BLM sensitive species. For the Gunnison prairie dog, candidate status includes only those populations occurring in the “montane” portion of the species’ range.

⁷ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013. 78FR2486 Proposed Listing, 78FR7540 Proposed Critical habitat.

⁸ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014. 79FR59992 Determination of Threatened Status for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)
North American Wolverine removed from list 13 August 2014. 79FR47522 Not Warranted Proposed Rule

BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ^{2, 3}	POTENTIAL AND/OR KNOWN OCCURRENCES IN PROJECT AREA ⁴
FISH		
Roundtail chub <i>Gila robusta</i>	Warm-water rocky runs, rapids, and pools of creeks and small to large rivers; also large reservoirs in the upper Colorado River system; generally prefers cobble-rubble, sand-cobble, or sand-gravel substrate	
Bluehead sucker <i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	Large rivers and mountain streams, rarely in lakes; variable, from cold, clear mountain streams to warm, turbid streams; moderate to fast flowing water above rubble-rock substrate; young prefer quiet shallow areas near shoreline	
Flannelmouth sucker <i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	Warm moderate- to large-sized rivers, seldom in small creeks, absent from impoundments; pools and deeper runs often near tributary mouths; also riffles and backwaters; young usually in shallower water than are adults	
Colorado River cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	Cool, clear streams or lakes with well-vegetated streambanks for shading cover and bank stability; deep pools, boulders, and logs; thrives at high elevations	
MAMMALS		
Desert bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	Steep, mountainous or hilly terrain dominated by grass, low shrubs, rock cover, and areas near open escape and cliff retreats; in the resource area, concentrated along major river corridors and canyons	
White-tailed prairie dog <i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	Level to gently sloping grasslands and semi-desert grasslands from 5,000' – 10,000' in elevation	
Kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Semi-desert shrublands of saltbrush, shadscale and greasewood	
Gunnison's prairie dog ¹⁰ <i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	Level to gently sloping grasslands, semi-desert shrublands, and montane shrublands, from 6,000' - 12,000 in elevation	
Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat <i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	Ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, oak brush, riparian woodland (cottonwood); typically found near rocky outcrops, cliffs, and boulders; often forages near streams and ponds.	

Big free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	Rocky areas and rugged terrain in desert and woodland habitats; roosts in rock crevices in cliffs and in buildings caves, and occasionally tree holes	
Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Desert shrub, ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, canyon bottoms, open pasture, and hayfields; roost in crevices in cliffs with surface water nearby	
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Mesic habitats including coniferous forests, deciduous forests, sagebrush steppe, juniper woodlands, and mountain; maternity roosts and hibernation in caves and mines; does not use crevices or cracks; caves, buildings, and tree cavities for night roosts	
Fringed myotis <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Desert, grassland, and woodland habitats including ponderosa pine, pinyon/juniper, greasewood, saltbush, and scrub oak; roosts in caves, mines, rock crevices, and buildings	
BIRDS		
Bald eagle ⁵ <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nests in forested rivers and lakes; winters in upland areas, often with rivers or lakes nearby	
American peregrine falcon ⁵ <i>Falco peregrines anatum</i>	Open country near cliff habitat, often near water such as rivers, lakes, and marshes; nests on ledges or holes on cliff faces and crags	
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Nests in a variety of forest types including deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests including ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, or in mixed-forests with fir and spruce; also nest in aspen or willow forests; migrants and wintering individuals can be observed in all coniferous forest types	
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Open, rolling and/or rugged terrain in grasslands and shrubsteppe communities; also grasslands and cultivated fields; nests on cliffs and rocky outcrops	
Burrowing owl ⁹ <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Level to gently sloping grasslands and semi-desert grasslands; Prairie dog colonies for shelter and food	
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse ⁶ <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbian</i>	Native bunchgrass and shrub-steppe communities for nesting; mountain shrubs including serviceberry are critical for winter food and escape cover	Extirpated
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Lakes and wetlands and adjacent grassland and shrub communities	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Marshes, swamps, ponds and rivers	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding

American white pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Typically large reservoirs but also observed on smaller water bodies including ponds; nests on islands	
Brewer's sparrow <i>Spizella berweri</i>	Breeds primarily in sagebrush shrublands, but also in other shrublands such as mountain mahogany or rabbitbrush; migrants seen in wooded, brushy, and weedy riparian, agricultural, and urban areas; occasionally observed in pinyon-juniper	
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS		
Longnose leopard lizard <i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Desert and semidesert areas with scattered shrubs or other low plants; e.g., sagebrush; areas with abundant rodent burrows, typically below 5,000' in elevation	
Midget faded rattlesnake ⁷ <i>Crotalus viridis concolor</i>	Rocky outcrops for refuge and hibernacula, often near riparian; upper limit of 7500'-9500' in elevation	
Milk snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum taylori</i>	Variable types including shrubby hillsides, canyons, open ponderosa pine stands and pinyon-juniper woodlands, arid river valleys and canyons, animal burrows, and abandoned mines; hibernates in rock crevices	
Northern leopard frog ⁸ <i>Rana pipiens</i>	Springs, slow-moving streams, marshes, bogs, ponds, canals, flood plains, reservoirs, and lakes; in summer, commonly inhabits wet meadows and fields; may forage along water's edge or in nearby meadows or fields	
Canyon treefrog <i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Rocky canyon bottoms along intermittent or perennial streams in temporary or permanent pools or arroyos ; semi-arid grassland, pinyon-juniper, pine-oak woodland, scrubland, and montane zones; elevation 1000' - 10,000'	
Boreal toad <i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i>	Mountain lakes, ponds, meadows, and wetlands in subalpine forest (e.g., spruce, fir, lodgepole pine, aspen); feed in meadows and forest openings near water but sometimes in drier forest habitats	
PLANTS		
Grand Junction milkvetch <i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Sparsely vegetated habitats in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush communities, often within Chinle and Morrison Formation and selenium-bearing soils; elevation 4800' – 6200'	
Naturita milkvetch <i>Astragalus naturitenis</i>	Cracks and ledges of sandstone cliffs and flat bedrock area typically with shallow soils, within pinyon-juniper woodland; elevation 5400' – 6700'	
San Rafael milkvetch <i>Astragalus rafaelsensis</i>	Banks of sandy clay gulches and hills, at the foot of sandstone outcrops, or among boulders along dry watercourses in seleniferous soils derived from shale or sandstone formations; elevation 4500'– 5300'	
Sandstone milkvetch <i>Astragalus sesquiflorus</i>	Sandstone rock ledges (Entrada formation), domed slickrock fissures, talus under cliffs, sometimes in sandy washes; elevation 5000' – 5500'	
Gypsum Valley cateye <i>Cryptantha gypsophila</i>	Confined to scattered gypsum outcrop and grayish-white, often lichen-covered, soils of the Paradox Member of the Hermosa Formation; often the dominant plant at these sites; elevation 5200' – 6500'	

Fragile (slender) rockbrake <i>Cryptogramma stelleri</i>	Cool, moist, sheltered calcareous cliff crevices and rock ledges	
Kachina daisy (fleabane) ⁹ <i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>	Saline soils in alcoves and seeps in canyon walls; elevation 4800' – 5600'	
Montrose (Uncompahgre) bladderpod <i>Lesquerella vicina</i>	Sandy-gravel soil mostly of sandstone fragments over Mancos Shale (heavy clays) mainly in pinyon-juniper woodlands or in the ecotone between it and salt desert scrub; also in sandy soils derived from Jurassic sandstones and in sagebrush steppe communities; elevation 5800' – 7500'	
Colorado (Adobe) desert parsley <i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Adobe hills and plains on rocky soils derived from Mancos Formation shale; shrub communities dominated by sagebrush, shadscale, greasewood, or scrub oak; elevation 5500' – 7000'	
Paradox Valley (Payson's) lupine <i>Lupinus crassus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodlands, or clay barrens derived from Chinle or Mancos Formation shales, often in draws and washes with sparse vegetation; elevation 5000' – 5800'	
Dolores skeleton plant ⁹ <i>Lygodesmia doloresensis</i>	Reddish purple, sandy alluvium and colluviums of the Cutler Formation between the canyon walls and the river in juniper, shadscale, and sagebrush communities; elevation 4000' – 5500'	
Eastwood's monkey-flower <i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>	Shallow caves and seeps on steep canyon walls; elevation 4700' – 5800'	
Paradox (Aromatic Indian) breadroot <i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>	Open pinyon-juniper woodlands in sandy soils or adobe hills; elevation 4800' – 5700'	
INVERTEBRATES		
Great Basin silverspot butterfly <i>Speyeria nokomis</i> <i>Nokomis</i>	Found in streamside meadows and open seepage areas with an abundance of violets	

¹ Based on Colorado BLM State Director's Sensitive Species List (Last update: April 15, 2011).

² Van Reyper G. 2006. Bureau of Land Management TES [threatened, endangered, sensitive] species descriptions. Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO, updated 2009/ 2010. Unpublished document.

³ Spackman SB, JC Jennings, C Dawson, M Minton, A Kratz, C Spurrier. 1997. Colorado rare plant field guide. Prepared for the BLM, USFS, and USFWS by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

⁴ Assessments based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁵ ESA delisted species.

⁶ Species not known to occur in UFO.

⁷ Validity of subspecies designation is in question by taxonomists.

⁸ Species currently under status review by FWS and a 12-month finding is pending; i.e., listing of the species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted.

⁹ Species not on BLM Colorado State Director's Sensitive List for UFO; included at the Field Office level to account for recent sightings, proximate occurrences, and/or potential habitat.

¹⁰ 12-month Finding Not Warranted 78 FR 68660; Removed from USFWS list

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN OF THE UFO ¹

SPECIES	HABITAT DESCRIPTION ²	RANGE AND STATUS IN THE UFO ^{2, 3}	POTENTIAL AND/OR KNOWN OCCURRENCES IN PROJECT AREA ⁴
Gunnison sage grouse <i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	Sagebrush communities (especially big sagebrush) for hiding and thermal cover, food, and nesting; open areas with sagebrush stands for leks; sagebrush-grass-forb mix for nesting; wet meadows for rearing chicks	Year-round resident, breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
American bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Marshes and wetlands; ground nester	Spring/ summer resident, breeding confirmed in the region but not within the UFO	
Bald eagle ⁵ <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nests in forested rivers and lakes; winters in upland areas, often with rivers or lakes nearby	Fall/winter resident, no confirmed breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Open, rolling and/or rugged terrain in grasslands and shrubsteppe communities; also grasslands and cultivated fields; nests on cliffs and rocky outcrops	Fall/ winter resident, non-breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Open country, grasslands, woodlands, and barren areas in hilly or mountainous terrain; nests on rocky outcrops or large trees	Year-round resident, breeding	
Peregrine falcon ⁵ <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Open country near cliff habitat, often near water such as rivers, lakes, and marshes; nests on ledges or holes on cliff faces and crags	Spring/summer resident, breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Prairie falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Open country in mountains, steppe, or prairie; winters in cultivated fields; nests in holes or on ledges on rocky cliffs or embankments	Year-round resident, breeding	
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Lakes and wetlands and adjacent grassland and shrub communities	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Snowy plover ⁶ <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Sparsely vegetated sand flats associated with pickleweed, greasewood, and saltgrass	Spring migrant, non-breeding	

Mountain plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	High plain, cultivated fields, desert scrublands, and sagebrush habitats, often in association with heavy grazing, sometimes in association with prairie dog colonies ; short vegetation	Spring/ fall migrant, non-breeding	
Yellow-billed cuckoo ⁷ <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Riparian, deciduous woodlands with dense undergrowth; nests in tall cottonwood and mature willow riparian, moist thickets, orchards, abandoned pastures	Summer resident, breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Flammulated owl <i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Montane forest, usually open and mature conifer forests; prefers ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine	Summer resident, breeding	
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Open grasslands and low shrublands often in association with prairie dog colonies; nests in abandoned burrows created by mammals; short vegetation	Summer/ fall resident, breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Lewis's woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Open forest and woodland, often logged or burned, including oak, coniferous forest (often ponderosa), riparian woodland, and orchards, less often in pinyon-juniper	Year-round resident, breeding	
Willow flycatcher ⁶ <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Riparian and moist, shrubby areas; winters in shrubby openings with short vegetation	Summer resident, breeding	
Gray vireo <i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Pinyon-juniper and open juniper-grassland	Summer resident, breeding	
Pinyon jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodland	Year-round resident, breeding	
Juniper titmouse <i>Baeolophus griseus</i>	Pinyon-juniper woodlands, especially juniper; nests in tree cavities	Year-round resident, breeding	
Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Deciduous forests, riparian, shrubs	UFO is outside known range. Possible summer resident, observed recently in Gunnison County, possible breeding.	
Bendire's thrasher <i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	Desert, especially areas of tall vegetation, cholla cactus, creosote bush and yucca, and in juniper woodland	UFO is outside known range	
Grace's warbler <i>Dendroica graciae</i>	Mature coniferous forests	Summer resident, breeding	

Brewer's sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i>	Sagebrush-grass stands; less often in pinyon-juniper woodlands	Summer resident, breeding	See assessment under Sensitive Species Section.
Grasshopper sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Open grasslands and cultivated fields	UFO is outside known range	
Chestnut-collared longspur <i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Open grasslands and cultivated fields	Spring migrant, non-breeding	
Black rosy-finch <i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	Open country including mountain meadows, high deserts, valleys, and plains; breeds/ nests in alpine areas near rock piles and cliffs	Rare winter resident, non-breeding	
Brown-capped rosy-finch <i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Alpine meadows, cliffs, and talus and high-elevation parks and valleys	Summer residents, breeding	
Cassin's finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	Open montane coniferous forests; breeds/ nests in coniferous forests	Year-round resident, breeding	

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia. 85 pp. [Online version available at <<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>>].

² Cornell Lab of Ornithology. All about birds: bird guide. <<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>> Accessed 05/15/2009.

³ San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources. Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. <<http://www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org/>> Accessed: 05/15/2009.

⁴ Assessment based on UFO files and GIS data, partner data, and local knowledge.

⁵ ESA delisted species.

⁶ Non-listed subspecies/ population.

⁷ ESA candidate species.